

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Cultural Arts Commission convened in a regular session at 7:02 p.m. on Monday, September 19, 2005, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Armstrong led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Armstrong, Miller, Smisek, Smith, and Vice-Chairperson Stadler.

Absent: Commissioner Strehler and Chairperson Wang.

Also Present: Cultural Services Administrator Myers,
Senior Cultural Services Supervisor McClelland,
Cultural Services Consultant Powers, and
Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson.

MOTION: Commissioner Armstrong moved to grant Chairperson Wang an excused absence for the September 19, 2005 Cultural Arts Commission meeting. Commissioner Smisek seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Strehler).

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Smith moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Vice-Chairperson Stadler so ordered (absent Commissioner Strehler and Chairperson Wang).

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were not available.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6A. TORRANCE ART MUSEUM / JOSLYN CENTER CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION UPDATE

Cultural Services Administrator Myers announced that the City Council ribbon cutting ceremony for the Torrance Art Museum would be on October 11, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. He reported that the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation was sponsoring an art exhibit preview for leaders from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on October 15,

2005, with Commissioners and individuals invited who have been or may become involved in the resource side of the development of the facility. The public opening will be held later that evening from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. to view exhibitions by DeWain Valentine and Nancy Braver. He commended Curator Christina Newhouse and Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson for their efforts in getting the exhibits prepared as well as the visual presentation of the facility.

He reported that Phase II was not completed on September 16, 2005 as scheduled, noting that areas that have not yet been completed are installation of glass all around the building, gates, and the decorative louvered screen on the southeast side. He advised that it was unclear why the screen was not designed or fabricated, and it would probably not be installed until late December 2005. He expressed appreciation for support of the renovation project from the Cultural Arts Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Cultural Arts Center Foundation, and City Council.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 2005 AS NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH

Cultural Services Administrator Myers requested that Commissioners adopt the proclamation for recommendation to City Council.

MOTION: Commissioner Miller, with a second by Commissioner Armstrong, moved to adopt the proclamation declaring October 2005 as National Arts and Humanities Month in Torrance for recommendation to Torrance City Council; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Strehler and Chairperson Wang).

7B. COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

Cultural Services Administrator Myers presented the item and requested that Commission review and amend as needed.

MOTION: Commissioner Smisek moved to adopt the 2004-2005 Cultural Arts Commission Annual Report as submitted for approval by City Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith and a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Strehler and Chairperson Wang).

Cultural Services Administrator Myers encouraged Commissioners to attend the September 27, 2005 City Council meeting at which time the proclamation would be read and formally approved and the Commission Annual Report would be adopted.

7C. CHINESE MEDIA PRESS REPORT

Cultural Services Administrator Myers reported that Chairperson Wang arranged for Cultural Services Division staff to meet with representatives from the Chinese language media on September 6, 2005. He stated that he, Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson, and Chairperson Wang attended a luncheon with reporters and discussed subjects that included the Grant Program, Excellence in Arts Program, and Torrance Art Museum opening.

8. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cultural Services Administrator Myers noted that the MapI/MapIII standing committee item has been removed from the agenda. He mentioned that the Commission might want to form a committee to monitor progress of the Torrance Art Museum.

8A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS

Postponed to the October Commission meeting.

8B. COMMUNITY CULTURAL PLAN

Commissioner Smith reported that she gave copies of the Pasadena Cultural Plan to Commissioners Miller and Smisek and that the committee would meet next month to discuss it.

Cultural Services Administrator Myers announced that Los Angeles County would like to conduct a conference in November 2005 for Los Angeles County Commissioners and were looking for volunteers to speak on a panel to provide attendees with different perspectives of what their role is, what the City Council expects from them, and how to be successful advocates for the arts in their community.

When Commissioner Miller inquired if it would be possible for the City to provide transportation to the event, Cultural Services Administrator Myers indicated that he would look into it.

8C. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

No report.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson reported that the summer session offered over 115 classes and had 1,175 participants. She stated that their Getty intern developed the application for the volunteer program for the Torrance Art Museum as well as a procedures and policies notebook. She advised that their goal was to establish a schedule for front desk volunteers at the museum. She commended Curator Christina Newhouse for getting the artists and exhibits together.

Commissioner Stadler suggested that staff consider high school students for volunteers.

Senior Cultural Services Supervisor McClelland thanked Commissioners for attending performances of "Camelot" and "Guys and Dolls" in August 2005 and "The Lion in Winter" in September 2005. He distributed fliers announcing the September 22, 2005 Native American Workshop at the Nakano Theatre and announced that Artline would be coming out next week.

Cultural Services Consultant Powers reported that the six Wild Wednesdays! events were successful, attended by approximately 2,900 people, and that four were taped for airing on CitiCABLE. He stated that this year they worked closely with vendors and initiated a "two-for-one" lunch program for City employees.

He provided information regarding the next Works in Progress that will produce an epic drama of the key events noted in the U.S. Government's The 9/11 Commission Report. He stated that each of the four segments would present events in separate calendar years 1998 through 2001. He noted that Works in Progress will be presented February through May 2006 and that season subscriptions will be available for purchase.

Cultural Services Administrator Myers expressed gratitude to staff members for a successful summer season.

He distributed copies of an August 22, 2005 Los Angeles Times article regarding artist Hiro Yamagata who has a studio in Torrance.

10. ORALS

Commissioner Armstrong stated that she enjoyed "Camelot" and informed Commissioners and staff that there will be a Russian exhibit in Las Vegas in January 2006. She also shared information about her program on the Prado museum in Madrid, Spain that is being aired on Channel 28.

Commissioner Smith stated that she enjoyed "Camelot" and especially "The Lion in Winter." She shared information about her visit to Scotland and the military tattoo she attended there. She stated that her church held a Katrina aid concert that was also attended by Commissioners Armstrong and Stadler.

Commissioner Miller stated that she enjoyed productions of "Guys and Dolls" and "Camelot" and gave kudos to those individuals who work behind the scenes. She discussed the luncheon and luau at the Ken Miller Recreation Center that had Hawaiian dancers and musicians. She stated that the patio of the Torrance Art Museum was beautiful and that the Symphony in the Park was well received and a financial success. She shared information about the Pageant of the Masters and P.J.'s Abbey restaurant in Old Towne Orange.

Commissioner Smisek stated that the Cultural Arts Center Foundation was busy getting ready for their opening night with Vicky Lawrence. She said that she spent an interesting day with sister city students from Kashiwa. She discussed the jazz series opening October 14, 2005 at the Nakano Theatre, the Peanut Gallery opening October 1, 2005 with the Tweaksters, and their table at the Arts Alive! Festival on October 1, 2005.

Commissioner Stadler stated that she enjoyed the Torrance Symphony and that she is enjoying her new position with the Hermosa Beach City School District. In response to her inquiry, Cultural Services Administrator Myers explained that class fees would cover the \$137,000 approved by City Council for the contract with Regina Klenjoski Dance Company.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:02 p.m., Commissioner Smith, with a second by Commissioner Miller, moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, October 17, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

Approved as Written November 21, 2005 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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